

REMARKS

In response to the final Office Action dated March 24, 2006, Applicants file herewith a Request for Continued Examination pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114 and a Response to the Office Action. Applicants also submit an IDS herewith. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. The application is believed to be in allowable condition.

Claims 3-10 and 12-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by www.erieri.com (ERI reference). Claims 27-33 have been canceled, rendering rejection as to these claims moot. As discussed below, the remaining claims are patentable over the ERI reference.

Independent claim 3 is directed to a method of providing compensation information over a communication network. The method includes prompting the user to select job comparison information to compare the desired compensation information associated with the selected job class and selected job titles with at least one of a national average compensation associated with the selected job class and job title, compensation for the selected job class and job title associated with a different geographic region than the selected geographic region, and compensation for the selected job class and the selected geographic region with a different job title associated with the selected job class. The method also includes receiving, over the communication network, a selection by the user of comparison information, retrieving, from the database containing compensation information associated with jobs, desired comparison compensation information corresponding to the selection by the user of the comparison information, and transmitting the desired comparison compensation information to the user over the communication network in addition to the desired compensation information in a format for comparing the desired compensation information and the desired comparison compensation information.

The ERI reference discusses research software and research reports on area wage and salary differentials. The ERI software allows users to receive salary information regarding selected jobs.

The ERI reference, however, fails to teach or disclose prompting a user to select job comparison information to compare desired compensation information associated with a selected job class and selected job titles with at least one of a national average compensation associated with the selected job class and job title, compensation for the selected job class and job title associated with a different geographic region than the selected geographic region, and

compensation for the selected job class and the selected geographic region with a different job title associated with the selected job class, all of which is recited in claim 3. Nor does the ERI reference disclose retrieving, from the database containing compensation information associated with jobs, desired comparison compensation information corresponding to the selection by the user of the comparison information, and transmitting the desired comparison compensation information to the user over the communication network in addition to the desired compensation information in a format for comparing the desired compensation information and the desired comparison compensation information, as is also recited in claim 3. Information found on pages 9 and 10 of the ERI reference does not allow selection of a particular job category for comparison to a specific region, a national average or different job titles, as recited in claim 3. For at least these reasons, claim 3 is patentable over the ERI reference. Claims 4-10 and 12 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 3 and are patentable for at least the reasons that claim 3 is patentable.

Independent claim 14 is directed to a system for providing compensation information. The system includes an interface module configured to provide the compensation information from the compensation module to the network for the user and configured to provide a job opportunities link that is selectable by the user to connect the user via the communication network to information relating to at least one opportunity for a job corresponding to the selected job data. The prompts of the interface module include at least one comparison prompt for the user to select other job data of at least one of a national average of compensation associated with a job of the at least a portion of the job data, the job of the at least a portion of the job data and a geographic location different than that of the at least a portion of the job data, and a geographic location and a job class of the at least a portion of the job data with a different job than that of the at least a portion of the job data.

The ERI reference does not teach or disclose a job opportunities link being selectable by the user to be connected via the communication network to information relating to at least one opportunity for a job corresponding to the selected job category, as recited in claim 14. Nor does the ERI reference teach or disclose prompts of an interface module that include at least one comparison prompt for the user to select other job data of at least one of a national average of compensation associated with a job of the at least a portion of the job data, the job of the at least a portion of the job data and a geographic location different than that of the at least a portion of

the job data, and a geographic location and a job class of the at least a portion of the job data with a different job than that of the at least a portion of the job data, also recited in claim 14.

Page 54 of the ERI reference includes a bullet point directed to Job Search Report; however, the ERI reference Job Search Report does not provide a job opportunities link being selectable by the user to be connected via a communication network to information relating to at least one opportunity for a job corresponding to the selected job category in a particular geographic area. The ERI reference discusses a stand alone software application in March 2000, and there is no indication that the ERI software is to be used with a network. Applicants note that the information available over the internet is designed to elicit subscriptions to the stand alone software application for sale by ERI, but not for general operation over the network for any user. For at least these reasons, claim 14 is patentable over the cited art. Claims 15-26 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 14 and are patentable for at least the reasons that claim 14 is patentable.

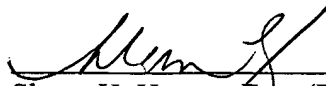
Claims 13 and 34-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ERI reference in view of www.careerbuilder.com (the careerbuilder reference). Claims 13 and 36-37 have been canceled, rendering rejection as to these claims moot. As discussed below, the remaining claims are patentable over the ERI reference in view of the careerbuilder reference.

The careerbuilder reference discusses a system for accessing information on careers. The careerbuilder reference includes a tab for a user to select to search for a job. By entering particular parameters, the user is presented with job offerings. The careerbuilder reference, however, fails to overcome the deficiencies of the ERI reference discussed above with respect to claim 14. Claims 34 and 35 depend, directly or indirectly from claim 14 and are therefore patentable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 14.

Applicant: Gregory Kent Plunkett et al.
U.S.S.N.: 09/823,524

Applicants believe this application to be in allowable condition, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. To answer any questions, or otherwise further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



Shane H. Hunter, Esq. (Reg. No. 41,858)
Alison L. McCarthy, Esq. (Reg. No. 51,998)
Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris
Glovsky and Popeo, P.C.
One Financial Center
Boston, MA 02111
Telephone: (617) 542-6000
Facsimile: (617) 542-2241
Attorney for Applicant
Customer No. 30623

Date: September 25, 2006

TRA 2200552v.1